

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please delete the following paragraph beginning on page 1,  
line 12.

~~--The invention also relates to a fiber product as  
described in the preamble of claim 21.--~~

The paragraph beginning at page 2, line 4 has been amended as  
follows:

--A drawback of the mixing of cationic and anionic  
polymers is that they might react together and macrocoagulate,  
if they are added together or if the anionic polymer is  
introduced to the fibers before the cationic modifying  
chemicals. For this reason it is difficult to evenly  
distribute the ~~cation~~ cationic polymer in the fibers.  
Additionally, using several different components will further  
affect the treatment of white water.--

Please delete the following paragraph beginning on page 3,  
line 18.

~~--More specifically, the method according to the invention is mainly characterized by what is stated in the characterizing part of claim 1.--~~

Please delete the following paragraph beginning on page 3, line 21.

~~--The the fiber product according to the invention, on the other hand, is characterized by what is stated in the characterizing part of claim 21.--~~

The paragraph beginning at page 4, line 3 has been amended as follows:

--The invention can also be used for producing modified fiber products that, on account of ~~their good~~ their good water retention, can be used in hygiene products, such as diapers.--

The paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1 has been amended as follows:

--During testing we noticed that sorption takes especially place, if the CMC is not too soluble in water in

neutral conditions. Degree of substitution (DS) of conventional CMC grades is too high (typically for achieving sufficient bonding. Therefore, the present invention utilizes CMC grades with a DS ~~below 0.5~~ below 0.5. In this context, the degree of substitution means the amount of substituted hydroxyl groups per anhydro-glucose unit. In neutral conditions, the water solubility of these CMC grades is about 20 weight-% at the most, preferably about 10 weight-% at the most, most preferably about 0-5 weight-%.--

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 19 has been amended as follows:

--For the bonding, the pH of the fiber suspension is set to the above-mentioned value of 6-13, preferably to 6-10. A suitable base or acid is used for setting the pH. Preferably, bicarbonate or carbonate of alkali metal or alkali metal hydroxide ~~are used as bases~~ is used as a base. Mineral acid or an acid salt is used as the acid. Sulphuric acid and its acid salts, such as alum, are considered the most suitable

salts, and sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate and sodium hydroxide are considered the most suitable bases.--

The paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1 has been amended as follows:

--As both cellulose fibers and CMC are anionic, they repel each other, whereby it is easier to achieve bonding by adding some ~~kation~~ cation to the suspension. Typically, the sodium ion (or, correspondingly, the ~~kation~~ cation) content in the bonding conditions should be more than 0.01 M, preferably more than 0.01 M and especially preferably more than 0.1 M.--

The paragraph beginning at page 8, line 6 has been amended as follows:

--The cellulose fiber suspension used for bonding can contain other fiber materials and additives, such as fillers. Calcium carbonate can be mentioned as an example of fillers. Retention promoting materials, such as sodium acetate, can be mentioned as an example of additives. The dry material content of the pulp is ~~about 0,1-10~~ about 0.1-10 %. The water phase of

the pulp can consist of, for example, clear filtrate of the paper machine white water.--

The paragraph beginning at page 11, line 11 has been amended as follows:

--A batch of starch-modified pulp was also produced for comparing the properties of CMC pulp. The used starch was ~~kationic~~ cationic potato starch ether Raisamyl 135, with a substitution level of 0.035. The starch was introduced to the pulp as a 0.5 % solution, the pulp having a consistency of 3 %. The amount of starch was 0.5 % of the amount of fiber. Starch was introduced both to unbeaten pulp and pulp treated with PFI beating for 4000 revolutions.--